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Underbox Tension in Panama; Quick Solution Leaflets Aimed To Split Nation

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PANAMA CITY.

The feuding sides in the bloody Panamanian crisis met here last night in an attempt to work out a quick and peaceful solution as the nation and the Canal Zone remained on the edge of more and worse violence.

Edward Martin, the former Assistant Secretary of State and now Ambassador-elect to Argentina, was the U. S. representative, and Augusto Arango, envoy to Washington, the Panamanian official at a press conference with the Pan-American Organization of American States commission at the Panama Hilton Hotel. The meeting was scheduled to last at least three hours, and none of the participants would utter a word about the kind of negotiations that were planned.

Whatever is done, however, must be accomplished quickly. Tension was building up all over this country of one million people yesterday, with the sharpest outbursts being at Colon, the second largest city, which borders the Canal on the Caribbean side.

A Panamanian National Guardsman was killed in a cross-fire with U. S. troops at Colon, and the Masonic Temple in Colon was assaulted by Molotov cocktails.

In Panama City, on the Pacific coast, where more than 200,000 people paid last respect to 12 Panamanian dead, scattered sniper shooting was reported across the Zonal border into Balboa.

In this capital city, speeding automobiles, probably driven by Communists, spread leaflets calling Panamanians to the streets for a "Red Night"—a night of bloodshed. The leaflets also accused the Panamanian National Guard of attacking Panamanians and implied that the Guard troops were unhappy about the way President Roberto F. Chiari was handling the crisis.

These accusations seemed an obvious Communist-inspired attempt to split not only the U. S. and Panama further but to raise the anger of the Panamanian people against their own government.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral of the 12 Panamanians who died in the rioting, brought out the biggest crowd in this country's history, estimated at 200,000.

Church bells tolled mournfully throughout the area and the sullen crowd—many dressed in black, others wearing black ribbons on their behind the casket, after the funeral mass at the Don Bosco Roman Catholic Church.

Led by President Chiari, the huge procession moved slowly to the Garden of Peace Cemetery three miles away, finally stopping at the open graves of the dead.

There several trampling incidents took place, and at least 20 women fainted.

At the cemetery entrance about 100 students stopped the marchers and started stamping their hands and all their U. S. money with indelible ink messages that read "Gringo asesino" and "Yankee go home."

The students said they would not stop their stamping until every U. S. bill in Panama was so marked.

ONLY 3 VOLLEYS

At the gravesites the crowd pressed so close that some nearly fell into the newly-dug holes. As the bodies were lowered the mother of 14-year-old Rosalinda Landecho, who was hit by a stray bullet as she watched the rioting from a balcony wailed: "she was innocent, she was innocent."

Then the honor guard of Panamanian Boy Scouts played taps, but a scheduled 21-gun salute was held to three volleys in order not to scare the crowd.

After the burial the crowd slowly dispersed, tired and weary it was hoped that the long march might calm the city for a while, but bands of students immediately started whipping up more anti-U. S. sentiment.

"These are the martyrs of the flag," said one student, using the phrase that will unquestionably become the rallying cry.

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any day in Panama from now until the crisis is over.

"This is only the beginning," he went on. "we will go to any length to avenge the deaths of our friends. The only possible way to avenge them is by throwing every single gringo out of the country."

Other students from the

University of Panama were ready to challenge the U. S. troops still guarding the border by again marching into the Zone with a Panamanian flag, but they were talked out of it for the time being by several Panamanian Congressmen who insisted it would only cause more "senseless bloodshed."

Gen. Andrew M. O'Meara.

Head of the U.S. Southern Command, denied at a news conference in Balboa that the Panamanian Guardsman killed at Colon yesterday was a victim of American bullets.

The guardsman was apparently slain when caught in a cross-fire between U.S. soldiers and snipers at the Canal Zone border, but Gen. O'Meara said the Americans were "only using birdshot" in their weapons and so they couldn't have caused the deaths. Two Panamanian Guardsmen were also wounded in the exchange.

BOMBS THROWN

Gen. O'Meara said "a good many Molotov cocktails are being tossed into that area of the zone," especially referring to a renewed attack on the Colon Masonic Temple which is occupied by U.S. attempt Saturday night.

The Southern Command also issued a denial of a report early yesterday morning that U. S. armed forces guarding the Canal Zone border were being pulled back. The U. S. military said that no withdrawal would take place until peace is restored.

Secretary of the Army Cyrus Vance and White House assistant Ralph Dungan spent most of the morning in Colon on an inspection trip.

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